RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 5th March, 1999/14 Phalguna 1920 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

Mr. Chairman *in the Chair.*

कुछ माननीय सदस्य: सर, बिहार के मामले पर ...(व्यवधान)...

कुछ माननीय सदस्य: सर, बिहार के बारे में ....(व्यवधान)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned at one minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty minutes past two of the clock.

The Deputy Chairman *in the Chair.*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Brain Drain from AIIMS

*141. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last two years, a number of senior faculty members of the AIIMS have left the organisation to join private sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the reasons for discontentment among the AIIMS faculty members; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to check the brain drain from AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) During the last two years (1st January, 1997 to 31st December, 1998) sixteen Faculty members have resigned/ sought voluntary retirement citing personal reasons for leaving the Institute. The details are as follows :

Professors	— 3
Additional Professors	— 4
Associate Professors	— 5
Assistant Professors	— 4

Of the three Professors, two were at the fag end of their career while leaving. As per information available with the Institute, two have gone abroad and about twelve have joined private institutions. These resignations/voluntary retirements are less than 2% per year of the total Faculty strength.

Personnel leaving for acquiring higher qualifications, better career opportunities, greater economic gains, etc. is common feature in all institutions.

Financial Assistance on Transport of Fertilizers to Himachal Pradesh

*142. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been requested to provide special financial assistance on transport of fertilizer to Himachal Pradesh on the pattern of Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States where Union Government have been meeting the extra cost of transport of decontrolled fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with the date of the request;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to take action on these requests; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (d) On a request from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh which was made on 16th August, 1997, Government of India has decided to provide additional financial assistance for transportation of potas-

sic and phosphatic fertilizers (P&K) to Himachal Pradesh on the lines of Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States with effect from Rabi 1998-99.

Exemption from price control on Doxycycline

*143. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doxycycline was exempted from price control on the ground of R and D; if so, when;

(b) when the exemption was withdrawn and why; whether the concerned Joint Secretary of the Ministry had recorded that the concerned company had implemented formulation prices;

(c) what action has been taken against him for distorting facts; and

(d) how fabulous prices for leading brands Doxy-I, Vibaine DT, Tetradox, are being charged with the connivance of bureaucrats of his Ministry and why the companies have not been booked under essential Commodities Act, 1955?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c) On the recommendation of the "Expert Group on Technology Issues", M/s Ranbaxy Labs Limited alone were granted exemption from price control on Grounds of R&D done by done them for the bulk drug Doxycycline Hydrochloride and its formulations vide S.O. No 782 (E) dated 29.8.1995, for a period of 3 years. M/s Ranbaxy Labs Limited, were complying with bulk drug price during price control and had informed that the Company was not manufacturing formulations based on the bulk drug. Subsequently, on 2.5.1996 the same "Expert Group on Technology Issues" was asked to re-examine their earlier recommendations for exemption for the bulk drug made by the Company. In the light of this re-examination by the Group, the Government vide S.O. No. 616(E) dated 3.9.1996 withdrew the exemption as provided under para 2 of the Guideline No. 1/1995 issued under DPCO, 1995.

(d) Ceiling prices of formulation packs based on Doxycycline were notified from time to time under DPCO, 1987 and DPCO, 1995. Inclusion of the bulk drug and its for mulations for control under DPCOs was challenged by M/s U.S. Vitamins in a case, filed in Mumbai High Court. Implementation of the Notified prices of the bulk drug and formulations was stayed by the High Court in the interim order dated 10.12.1996. The case is *sub-judice*.

Rail line from Sultanganj to Deoghar

*144. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for the construction of railway line from Sultanganj to Deoghar *via.* Banka in Bihar is being made persistently by the Members of Parliament of South Bihar, in and outside Parliament; and

(b) whether this railways line links several districts of South Bihar with each other and it is also very important from the point of view of traffic?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Some demands have been received.

(b) A survey for the suggested line from Sultanganj to Deoghar *via* Banka has been taken up. The traffic potential will become clear once the survey report becomes available. The proposed line, if taken up, would link several districts of South Bihar with Sultanganj in Bhagalpur District.